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TOO BAD!
Zanbara reader warning
THIS STORY IS FULL OF NAKED WOMEN AND IS INTENDED FOR MATURE READERS
WTF !?

That's a lie

DURING THE EDO PERIOD, YOU NEEDED TO STAND STILL FOR A LONG TIME TO TAKE A PICTURE.
THREE MORE MINUTES.
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
DO YOUR BEST, ICHI...!

YANBA
壱

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THE WORLD WAS GOING THROUGH THE TROUBLED TIMES OF BAKUMATSU*, THE END OF THE EDO PERIOD.

*T/N: THE BAKUMATSU WERE THE FINAL YEARS OF THE EDO PERIOD WHEN THE FEUDAL REGIME OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE CAME TO AN END.

THUMP
ONE POINT! SANBA!
UGH... JUST ONE MORE POINT...!
THAT KID...
SAKURA!!
DOU-ARI*!!
* T/N DOU-ARI MEANS THAT 1 POINT WAS SCORED BY HITTING THE DOU, A PROTECTIVE PIECE THAT COVERS THE CHEST AND STOMACH. HOWEVER HERE IT'S BEING USED AS A KIAI A BATTLE CRY, EXCLAIMING THE MOVE AS IT'S EXECUTED! I'M ASSUMING "SAKURA" IS ALSO A PART OF THE KIAI

YES
I WON!
GUESS YOU'LL BE CLEANING THE BATHROOMS TODAY, ICHI!
THE REF WAS SLOW AT CALLING THE POINT.
I HIT YOU FIRST
S-SLOW..?
WHAT A LAME EXCUSE, ICHIYO-KUN.
GET READY, AKEHIKO. LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.
OH, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA

HEY, YOU... LISTEN UP...
TAKES OFF
AKE-HIKO ICHIMO
THIS CUTE LITTLE LADY HAS COME TO PICK YOU UP.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO COME HOME EARLY TODAY...
BECAUSE WE'RE RECEIVING GUESTS...!?
OH

SIGH
ALWAYS SENDING KAYO, THEY HAVE NO FAITH IN US!
THAT'S DISAP-POIN-TING
WHO'RE YOU TO TALK?
EVERYONE IS BUSY IN THE DOMA*, TRYING TO PREPARE DINNER FOR FIFTEEN PEOPLE.
HEY!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR POST STATION IS THRIVING. I'M REALLY ENVIOUS.
AHHH!!
YOU'RE THE DUDE I SENT FLYING RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING!
AH I SENT HIM FLYING YESTER-DAY, TOO
UGH !!

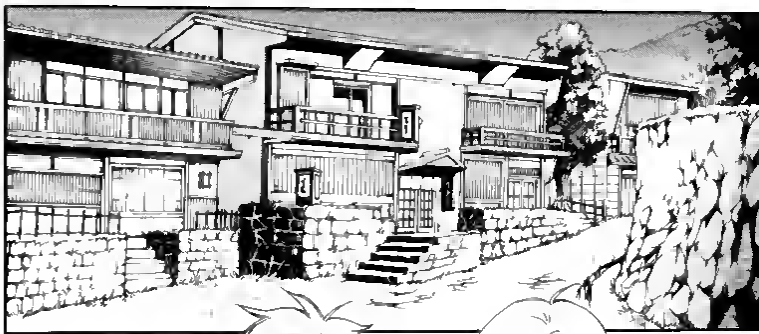
* T/N: A FLOOR OF COMPACTED EARTH, TYPICALLY FOUND IN FARMHOUSES AND OFTEN UTILIZED FOR COOKING OR FARM-RELATED TASKS

ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF A SAMURAI?! MER-CHANTS!
IT'S ONLY THANKS TO US THAT YOU CAN DO YOUR BUSINESS!
WE "SAMURAI" ARE THE ONES PROTECT-ING THIS COUNTRY!!
WHILE YOU'RE RUNNING YOUR LITTLE ERRANDS, FLATTERING CLIENTS,
EVEN WHILE YOU'RE EATING, WE ARE WORKING FOR THE SAKE OF THIS COUNTRY!
JUST A SINGLE WORD FROM MY FATHER, AND THAT INN--

QUIT BLAB-BING.
HEY!
YOU LITTLE !!
AARGH
BONK
Shi
ng

YOU KNOW...
THESE GUYS WILL PROBABLY GIVE US A HARD TIME...
HURRY UP AND SETTLE THIS!
WAIT A MINUTE...!!
Oh, my
AKEHIKO
LISTEN UP
I'LL OPEN UP A PATH, YOU TAKE CARE OF THAT GUY.
THE ONE WHO DOES BEST IS EXEMPTED FROM CLEANING THE BATH-ROOM!!
WHAAAAT!?
OK

WHACK
AHHH ---COME ON---!
YOU BAS-TARD -!
ALL RIGHT. I'LL MAKE YOU CLEAN THE BATHROOM AT ANY COST, ICHI.
HU
FF
HURRY UP!



SORRY.

"I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR BEING LATE, BIG BROTHER," WOULD BE MORE APPRO-PRIATE...
I GUESS YOU'VE GOTTEN USED TO THIS PUNISHMENT...
YOU KNOW WHAT A WOODEN HORSE IS, DON'T YOU?
EEP
I MIGHT BE GETTING ONE THROUGH A FRIEND OF MINE..
AKIHIKO
MOTHER
She found out.
SO... WHO WON THE FIGHT?
WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE?
WE WON, HANDS DOWN
WE ARE SHORT-HANDED HERE, YOU KNOW?
WHY DON'T YOU LET THEM LEND A HAND?

ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE
WELL DONE !!
BOW

YES!
WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN! DO YOUR BEST!

GO TO THE WAREHOUSE AND BRING ME SOME RICE!
YEAH, YEAH.
THERE'S SOME MANUAL WORK FOR YOU TO DO FIRST!
WHAT'S THE WAGER!?
ALL RIGHT! THE ONE WHO CAN CARRY THOSE FASTER IS THE WINNER!

Pop
LET'S SEE... RICE... RICE...
?
HAH
CREAK
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
WAAAA!!!
!?
WHY ARE YOU SHUT UP IN HERE AGAIN?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE "HOST"!
AHH, THAT'S BECAUSE OLDER BROTHER IS RELIABLE ENOUGH
FATHER!
YOU TWO HAVE GAINED QUITE A REPUTATION.

*"FINAL ILLUSION TO AN OLD JAPANESE TELEVISION SHOW(ET THINK)_

I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD WHEN I WAS TAKEN IN BY THIS FAMILY.
BOW
THE SAME GOES FOR YOU. BACK TO WORK!
WE RECEIVED A VERY STRICT EDUCATION.
Yaaa
WE...
GREW UP LIKE BROTHERS.
KAYO?
FULL OF ENERGY, AREN'T THEY?
YAAAA!
Clang

Slash
ICHI, WE SHOULD STOP SOON...
WE HAVE TO WAKE UP EARLY TOMOR-ROW...
I KNEW IT!
AAAA!

OH, YEAH?
BUT SINCE WE BOTH TRAIN AT THE DOJO,
SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE LEARNED TO PREDICT MY MOVES?
AT FIRST YOU WERE ALL TALK, AND ALL YOU COULD DO WAS HOLD THE WOODEN SWORD.
I WONDER ABOUT THAT...
KICK!
WHAT!?

TAKE THIS!
TRIP
HOW NAIVE!
TSK
THUD
always sticking out your foot, tripping just up! fight seriously for once!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO THE DOJO FOR?
and we shut
eek
COME ON AND JOIN ME DOWN HERE
.....

EEK
EEK
EASY, EASY
EVERY NIGHT, IT'S THE SAME THING!
CUT IT OUT!
IF THEY CAN'T EVEN BECOME SAMURAI?
WHAT'S THE POINT OF TRAINING IN KENDO
GEEZ!
GUESS SO...

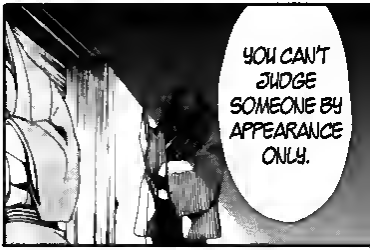
?
THUMP
AAAARGH!
SO SMALL...
UGH! YOU'RE HEAVY!
HEY, WAKE UP, ICHI!
DON'T FALL ASLEEP HERE
.....
ICHI-KUN?

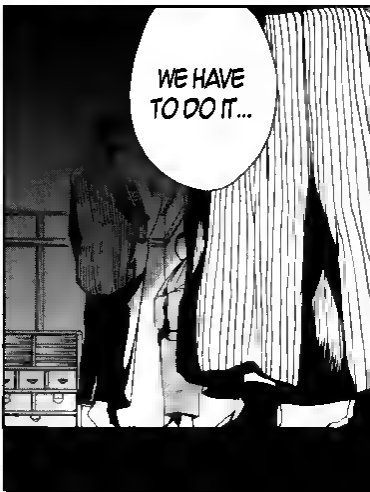
LATELY, THE STREETS HAVE BECOME DANGEROUS. PLEASE TAKE CARE!
DANGER-OUS?
TODAY I'VE PREPARED ...
YAY, IT'S THE SAME AS USUAL.
YOUR FAVORITE LUNCH. PLAIN ONIGIRI AND PICKLED DAIKON RADISH. ♡

GOT IT!
SO TRY TO THE KEEP THE FIGHTING TO JUST BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU
A LOT OF RONIN HAVE COME FROM THE CAPITAL,
MOTHER!

YOU KNOW,
WHAT'S WRONG?

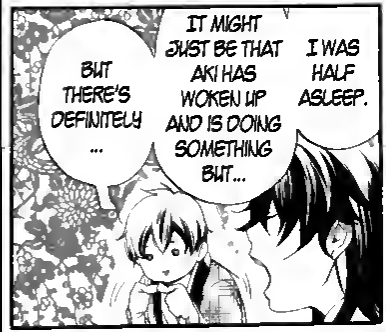
AKEHIKO


YOU CAN'T JUDGE SOMEONE BY APPEARANCE ONLY.


WE HAVE TO DO IT...

wind blowing

THERE'S SOMEONE RUMMAGING ABOUT.



HEY
ARE YOU SURE THE WOODEN SWORDS WILL BE ENOUGH?
WHY DON'T WE GO TAKE A KNIFE OR THE SWORD WE SAW IN THE WAREHOUSE?
WHAT IF HE LEAVES IN THE MEANTIME?
IT'LL BE FINE..
DOSU
RATTLING
WELL, ICHI?

HERE HE IS!!

WHO'S OUT HERE?!
STEP
STEP
CAN'T BE AFRAID
CALL THE OFFICIALS! THE THIEF RAN AWAY!
WHAT !?
CAN'T BE...
DON'T GO
puff
puff
YONE, HURRY UP AND CALL THE OFFI-CIALS!
YES!

ICHI!
IT'S NO USE CHASING HIM BLINDLY.
LET'S TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE TWO OF US!
NOD
I'LL KEEP FOLLOWING HIM
SPLIT UP!
ALL RIGHT, THEN I'LL GO THIS WAY!

puff
puff
I FOUND HIM!
OH.
DAMN. HE'S STILL FOLLOWING ME?!
HUH?
AAAH!

CRASH
GRASH
ACH!
TAP
rustling
GRAB
UGH, I'M GETTING LOST...!
CRASH

!!!
skid
TSK
SUR-
REN-
DER!

WHAT?!
GOT CHA !!
WHACK
TH
UD

WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT?
GEEZ, WAIT A SECOND...
SIGH
COLLAPSE
CLAP
YAY!
I'LL TAKE BACK THE MONEY HE STOLE.
twitch
THE OFFICIALS SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING US IF THEY FOLLOW THE MESS YOU MADE.
WHAT NOW?

RIP

!!
NICE TRY, BRAT ...!
GP
SLAB

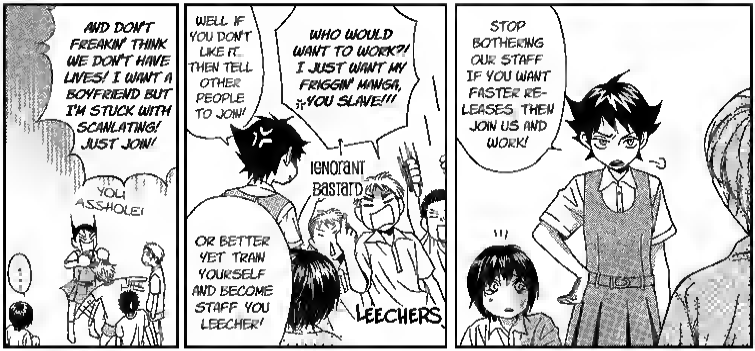
thump
EITHER OF YOU IS FINE.
NOW
DIE!

BONK
ARGH!
.....
WHO THE HELL WAS THAT?!
OH MY, YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT...
CLICK!

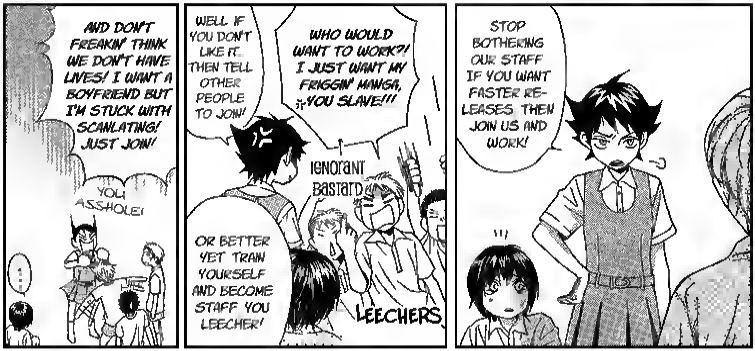
DIDN'T YOUR SENSEI EVER TELL YOU
NOT TO PICK ON THE WEAK?!

壱

SHORT STORY


AND DON'T FREAKIN' THINK WE DON'T HAVE LIVES! I WANT A BOYFRIEND BUT I'M STUCK WITH SCANLATING! JUST JOIN!
YOU ASSHOLE!
WELL IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN TELL OTHER PEOPLE TO JOIN!
WHO WOULD WANT TO WORK?! I JUST WANT MY FRIGGIN' MANGA, YOU SLAVE!!!
Ignorant Bastard
OR BETTER YET TRAIN YOURSELF AND BECOME STAFF YOU LEECHER!
LEECHERS
STOP BOTHERING OUR STAFF IF YOU WANT FASTER RELEASES THEN JOIN US AND WORK!

SHORT STORY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LEECHERS
STOP BOTHERING OUR STAFF IF YOU WANT FASTER RELEASES THEN JOIN US AND WORK!

ZING
DIDN'T YOUR SENSEI EVER TELL YOU
NOT TO
PICK ON THE WEAK?!

WHA
...
SPEECHLESS
HIC
.....
LOOKS AROUND
NAKAMURA-KU-N LET'S GO HO-ME
I'M SLEEPY
MAYBE I DRANK TOO MUCH

Can't you see we have a problem?!
HEY, NOW'S NOT REALLY THE TIME FOR THAT!
CAN'T BE HELPED
AW, HE GOT SEPARATED FROM ME AGAIN!
ARE YOU NAKAMURA-KUN?
NO...
WE LIVE THERE..!
YEAH? GREAT! ♡
DO YOU KNOW THE YAMATOYA INN?
STATE YOUR NAME!
ARE YOU ONE OF AKANE'S MEN?
HOLD IT!
UH
THEN LET'S GO BACK TO-GETHER!

EH—?
EVEN IF I TOLD YOU MY NAME, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ME.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M FAMOUS
CUT THE CRAP AND TELL ME YOUR NAME!!
WHAT AN ANNOYING GUY!
AHEM
WELL THEN...
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!
SWIVEL

I CAN'T REMAIN INDIFFERENT IN FRONT OF AN ILL-INTENTIONED MAN WHO POINTS HIS SWORD AT TWO CHILDREN.
BOW DOWN BEFORE THE LAW.
I AM OKITA SOJI, CAPTAIN OF THE FIRST UNIT OF THE SHINSENGUMI.
THIS IS SO HUMILIATING !!
He didn't even say anything!
YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA!

BY THE WAY, WHO ARE YOU?
.....
THAT'S RIGHT! GIVE BACK WHAT YOU STOLE!
I'M OUT-NUM-BERED, BUT...
MY OPPONENTS ARE AN UNARMED DRUNKARD AND TWO KIDS.
GRAB
AKEHIKO! ICHI!
THEY FOUND US!
HERE'S MY CHANCE!

BAM
!!
I'LL BORROW THIS.
CLANG
WHAT?!

WHO-
HE'S FAST!
CLANG!
CLANG
WHO THE HELL IS THIS GUY?!
THUD
YAAA
AH!

THU
NK
KYAA!
TO ATTACK ME WITH A REAL SWORD!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DARED
UH ...
YOU REALLY KNOW NO LIMITS
AMA-ZING
THU
DO YOU?
MP

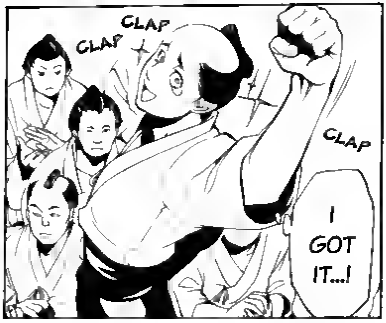
AKEHIKO! ICHI! ARE YOU OKAY?
THEY ARE HERE!
UH, YEAH
THANK GOOD-NESS!
OOF!
FATHER, THAT'S ENOUGH!
REALLY STRONG
THIS GUY IS...

UM —
WE ARE THE SHINSEN-GUMI
THE DISORDERS THAT HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE IN THE CAPITAL ARE TOO MUCH TO TOLERATE, REGARDLESS IF THEIR PURPOSE IS TO SUPPORT THE SHOGUNATE, OR OVERTHROW IT.
THE RONIN CORPS CREATED BY MATSUDAIRA-SAMA, DAIMYO* OF THE AIZU CLAN, TO PRESERVE PUBLIC ORDER IN THE CAPITAL.
* T/N: feudal lord
GENTLE-MEN, I'M ASKING YOU NOW,
TO WHAT END DID YOU LEARN TO FIGHT?
TO WHAT END DO YOU WIELD YOUR SWORD?
ISN'T IT FOR THE SAKE OF THIS COUNTRY?
IN FRONT OF THE SWORD, THERE IS NO SOCIAL DIFFERENCE! SO, TAKE A SWORD, MY FELLOW COMPAN-IONS!
COME WITH US TO THE CAPITAL, AND HELP US PROTECT JAPAN!

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

BRAVO
!!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

HOW ABOUT A MATCH...? DOES ANYONE...
WELL...


CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
I GOT IT...!

I DO!
I DO!
I DO!

I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND, BUT IT'S GREAT, ISN'T IT?
AH
YOU BET!
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND A THING.

NO ONE ELSE...?
That kid again?!
WELL...

ZING
I WANNA FIGHT YOU!
AHH THANKS FOR YOUR HELP THE OTHER DAY
PLAYING DUMB
UH...
HUH?
PLEASE COME HERE, BOTH OF YOU
IT'S ALL RIGHT
YOU DISRESPECTFUL BRAT! DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?

SHING
WHACK
THUNK
THU
MP
ONE POINT FOR OKITA!

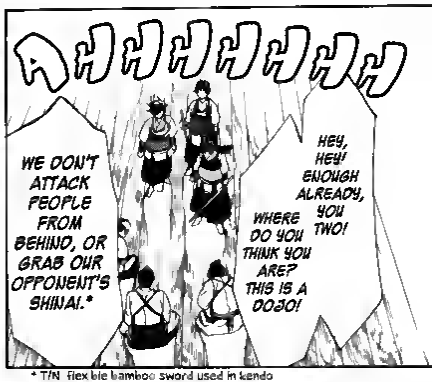
PANT
PANT
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THEM WORN OUT.
LOOKS LIKE THEIR BARK WAS WORSE THAN THEIR BITE
SHRUG
AND YET THEY DEFEATED US HANDS DOWN
STILL ...
DAMN ...
THIS GUY IS REALLY SOME-THING!
RUSH
ICHI!
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
GREAT!
I'LL TACKLE HIM FROM BEHIND ...
TURNS AROUND

TOP
PLE
AHH
BU
MP
WHAT THE?!
HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH?
HE'S STRONG
PANT
ICH!
GET OFF OF ME! YOU'RE HEAVY ..
UGH

NOT YET!
YAAA!
CHA
RGE
BAM
OH, BOTH AT THE SAME TIME?
WHACK
BOOK
I'LL STRIKE ONE DOWN.
IF THAT'S THE CASE
A STRATEGY, HUH?
WHACK

ICHI
OH!
WHACK
HMPF !!!
EH?
HOW NAIVE.
THUMP
WAAH!!

Intermission
TIP
TOE
TIP
TOE
TIP
...
HIT THE DOU !!
SPINS AROUND


AHHHHHHH
WE DON'T ATTACK PEOPLE FROM BEHIND, OR GRAB OUR OPPONENT'S SHINAI.*
HEY, HEY! ENOUGH ALREADY, YOU TWO!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? THIS IS A DOJO!

* T/N: Flexible bamboo sword used in kendo

I KNOW
I HURT ALL OVER.
IF THIS WAS A REAL SWORD...
HOW MANY TIMES WOULD I HAVE BEEN KILLED?
I WISH YOU HAD REALIZED IT SOONER, THOUGH...

THAT MAN YESTERDAY DIDN'T STEAL A SINGLE THING.
SO IT WAS REALLY HIIRAGI'S ...
MOST LIKELY, THIS IS ONLY THE BEGIN-NING.
IT-
IT'S ALREADY SOMETHING THAT'S LASTED THIS LONG
WE'VE RAISED THAT BOY UNTIL NOW...
AND THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO NOW IS...
...TO LET ICHIYO GET AWAY SAFE AND SOUND.
HERE IT IS.

BONK
MHGH
TAKE THIS.
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
OOF
silence
silence
FLOP
What the ?!
groan
YOU'RE HOPE-LESS
YOU HIT ME, SO I'M DEAD...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

I'LL NEVER GET OVER THIS GRUDGE
I'LL BE CURSED FOREVER
AND EVER!
FLOP
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!!
AAAAHHH

HEY...
WANNA TRY WITH REAL SWORDS?

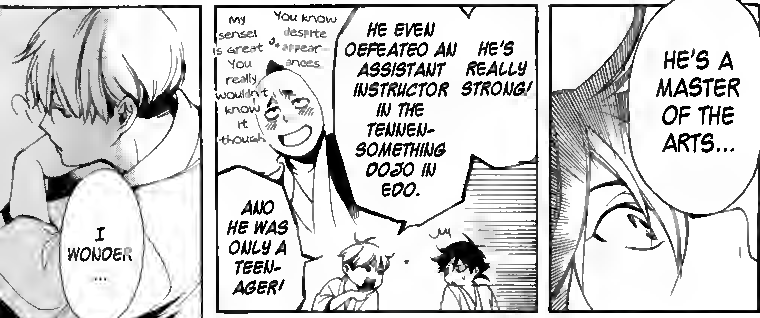
HERE
I SNATCHED THEM FROM THOSE GUYS AT THE STOREHOUSE THE OTHER DAY
RATTLE
RATTLE
SHING
LET'S GO!
CLANG
OKAY

ガ！

CLANG CLANG CLANG
ICHI, THIS IS REALLY DANGE-ROUS...
GET BACK.
YOU GET BACK
ALL RIGHT, THEN,
LET'S DRAW BACK AT THE SAME TIME
ONE,
TWO..
THREE!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

CLANK
CLANK
THAT WAS SCARY !!!
Ahhhhhhh
sigh
AKE-HIKO
YEAH?
THAT GUY WITH THE BOBBED HAIR...
YOU MEAN OKITA-SAN?
THAT GUY

* their mental image of Okita

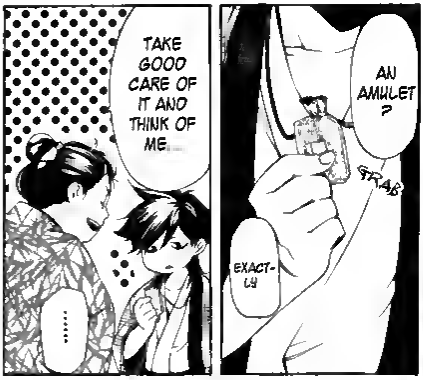

I WONDER...
You know sensei is great despite appearances. You really wouldn't know it though.
HE EVEN DEFEATED AN ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR IN THE TENNEN-SOMETHING DOJO IN EDO.
HE'S REALLY STRONG!
AND HE WAS ONLY A TEEN-AGER!
HE'S A MASTER OF THE ARTS...

I WONDER WHAT IT'D FEEL LIKE...
IF HE'S REALLY THE BEST ...
I DON'T KNOW
I REALLY DON'T.
ICHI
AKE-HIKO
CAN I BOTHER YOU A SECOND ?

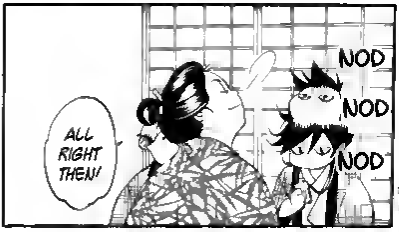
WHAT ?!
SO MY YOUNGER BROTHER LIVES IN THE CAPITAL.
I WANT YOU TO DELIVER THIS TO HIM.
WE DON'T REALLY HAVE HANDS TO SPARE,
BUT SINCE THE TWO OF YOU TOGETHER SEEM TO DO THE WORK OF ONE MAN.
.....
WE'LL GET ALONG EVEN IF YOU'RE AWAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE
HERE IS THE MAP AND THE MONEY FOR THE JOURNEY
I'M ENTRUSTING THEM TO YOU, AKEHIKO, BECAUSE ICHI WOULD LOSE THEM RIGHT AWAY.
TAKE THOSE, TOO!
YONE BRAND'S LATEST PRODUCT! THE "TRAVELER'S OUTFIT"!
.....
WELL, GOODBYE, THEN.
—ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE NOW?!
BUT THE SUN HASN'T EVEN RISEN YET!

AKE-HIKO!
I'LL TAKE YOU AS FAR AS THE TOWN EXIT
AND THE SKY IS ALREADY GETTING BRIGHTER, YOU'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE SETTING OUT NOW
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, IT'S A LONG WAY TO THE CAPITAL
EH
BUT WHY CAN'T WE WAIT UNTIL DAWN?
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ICHI.

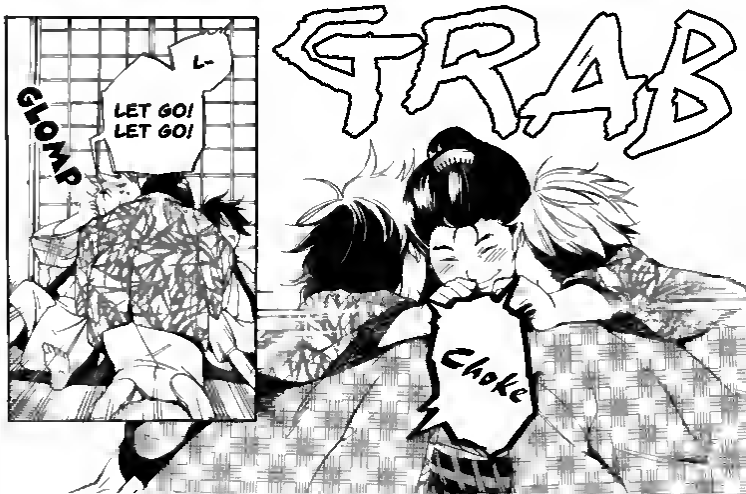
YOU MUST PROTECT HIM.
I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU, ICHI.
I GOT IT.
I CAN PROTECT MYSELF


TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT AND THINK OF ME...
.....
AN AMULET?
GRAB
EXACT-LY

SNUSH


NOD
NOD
NOD
ALL RIGHT THEN!

IF YOU LOSE IT, I'LL BEAT THE SNOT OUTTA YOU!
Author's hallucination: Let go


GRAB
GLOMP
L-
LET GO! LET GO!
Choke

YONE?
SLAK
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
YONE
IT'S ALMOST TIME...
YES
PANT-PANT PANT
GO GET READY
I'LL BE WAITING DOWNSTAIRS
CLAP
WE-
WE'RE OFF.

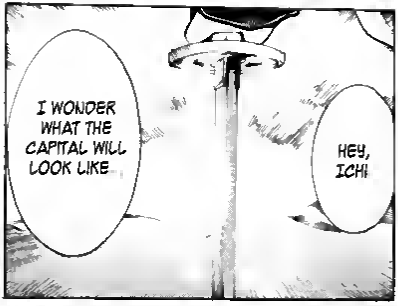
ALL RIGHT!!!
FLIP FLAP
THAT'S IT
WE JUST CAN'T MISS KIYOMIZU TEMPLE
CLOMP CLOMP
MMP
WE WON'T!
JUST AS I THOUGHT ..IT HAD BEEN LEFT OUTSIDE.
RATTLE
THAT'S DANGE-ROUS
BE QUIET YOU TWO!
Don't you know what time it is?
KAYO!
HEY
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?
Hm—
WE GET TO GO TO THE CAPITAL ♡
ON AN ERRAND ♡
TO THE CAPITAL?

Ah
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO DO OUR SHARE OF WORK AS WELL FOR A WHILE!
I WANNA GO, TOO!
THAT'S SO UNFAIR!! HOW COME ONLY YOU TWO ARE GOING?!
HEY NOW, BE QUIET, KAYO.
AHHH
DON"T EVEN BOTHER COMING BACK!
I WILL
BUY YOU A REALLY NICE HAIRPIN

* T/N: Kayo says this in the way a shop owner would say goodbye to a customer.

YOU'RE NOT MOVING ANYMORE, ARE YOU?
UGH
ANY NEWS FROM THE GUYS THAT WERE KEEPING A WATCH AT YAMATOYA?
NONE AT ALL
AH! OKITA-SENSEI !!
BROAM
HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH, YOU STUPID RONIN?
Hic
OOHHH
THESE PEOPLE ARE RONIN, NAKA-MURA-KUN!
THEY TRIED TO ESCAPE AS SOON AS I CALLED OUT TO THEM
YOU SHOULD GO TO BED AND REST! WE'RE SETTING OUT TODAY!
NOW, LET'S HAND THEM OVER TO THE GUARD HOUSE!
yawn
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I HEARD STRANGE NOISES
IT'S NO BIG DEAL I WAS IN THE BATHROOM WHEN I SAW THEM SNEAKING AROUND

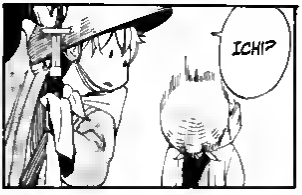
WAA!
IT'S DAZZLING!


I WONDER WHAT THE CAPITAL WILL LOOK LIKE
HEY, ICHI

TAKE THESE WITH YOU.

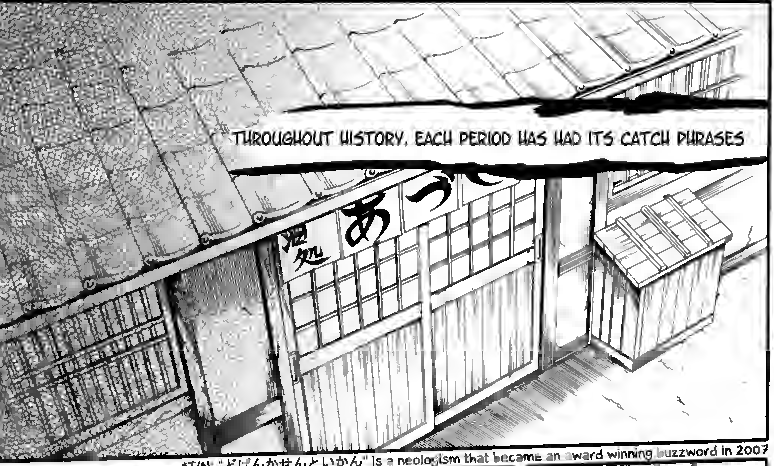
YOU CAN'T FALL ASLEEP HERE!
UGH!
YOU'RE HEAVY

I'M SLEEPY ...


ICHI?

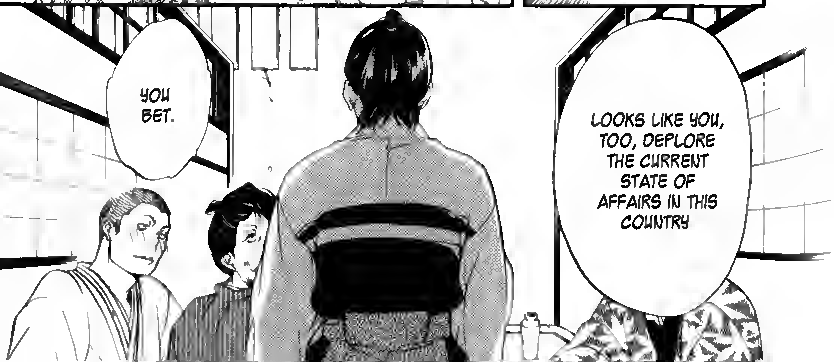
SHORT STORY

AND DON'T FREAKIN' THINK WE DON'T HAVE LIVES! I WANT A BOYFRIEND BUT I'M STUCK WITH SCANLATING! JUST JOIN!
YOU ASSHOLE!
WELL IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT THEN TELL OTHER PEOPLE TO JOIN!
WHO WOULD WANT TO WORK?! I JUST WANT MY FRIGGIN' MANGA, YOU SLAVE!!!
ignorant bastard
OR BETTER YET TRAIN YOURSELF AND BECOME STAFF YOU LEECHER!
LEECHERS
STOP BOTHERING OUR STAFF IF YOU WANT FASTER RELEASES THEN JOIN US AND WORK!



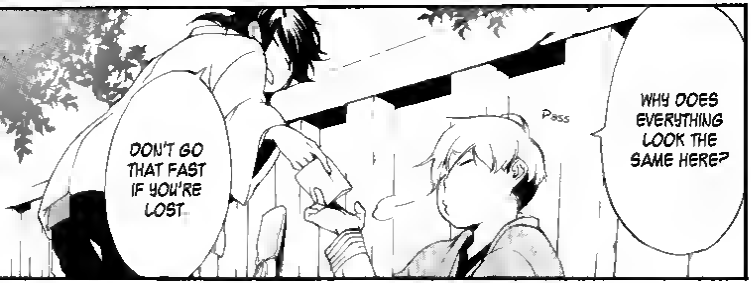
*T/N: "どげんかせんといかん" is a neologism that became an award winning buzzword in 2007

IT IS IN MOMENTS SUCH AS THIS THAT THE POWER OF US PATRIOTS IS MOST NEEDED!!
WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS COUNTRY.*
BAKUMATSU WAS NO EXCEPTION

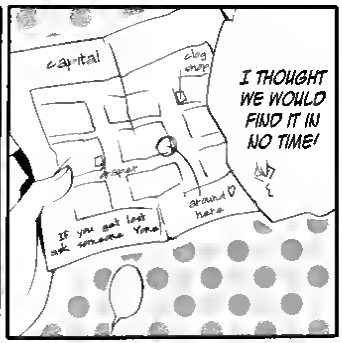


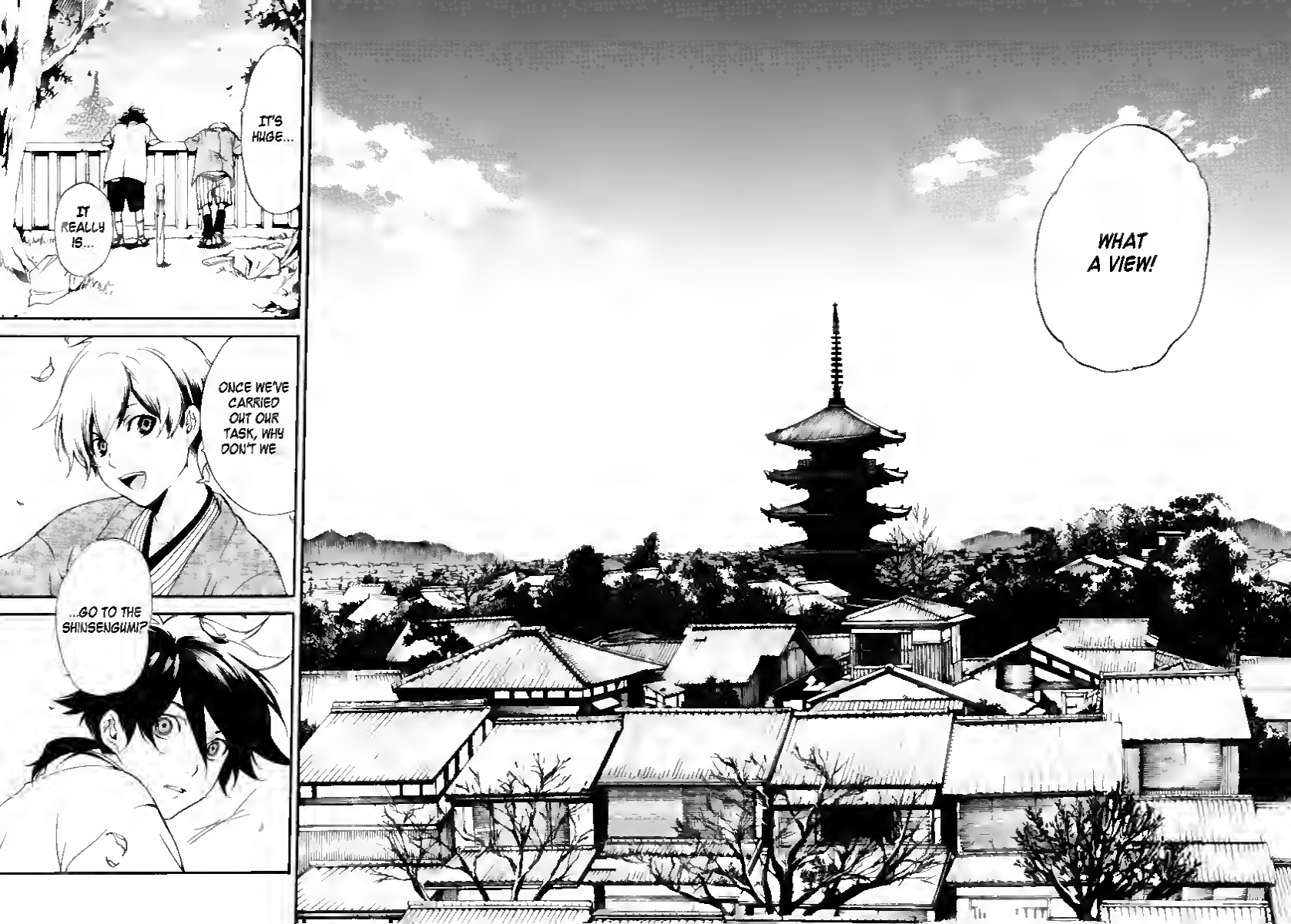
MAY I TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSION?

AHH— I CAN'T WALK ANOTHER STEP.
WHERE ARE WE?


WHY DOES EVERYTHING LOOK THE SAME HERE?
Pass
DON'T GO THAT FAST IF YOU'RE LOST.

WHY DON'T WE GIVE UP FOR TODAY, AND ACTUALLY USE OUR FUTON FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO DAYS?
EVEN IF WE WANTED TO GO SIGHTSEEING, OUR LUGGAGE WOULD BE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.


I THOUGHT WE WOULD FIND IT IN NO TIME!
capital
city shrine
river
If you get lost ask someone. Yeah!
around here

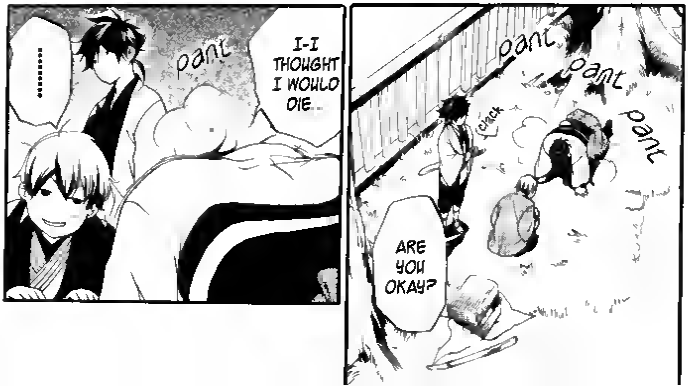

IT'S HUGE...
IT REALLY IS...
ONCE WE'VE CARRIED OUT OUR TASK, WHY DON'T WE
...GO TO THE SHINSENGUMI?
WHAT A VIEW!

BEHIND ME?
WE WOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO THANK OKITA-SAN FOR HIS HELP
ICHI?
WHAT'S WRONG?

IT-
IT HURTS..
HELP
ME...
wobble
WAIT A SECOND !!
I NEED SOME-THING TO CUT WITH!

CHOKE
sla
HMPF
sh

Interval


pant
I-I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE...
.....
pant
pant
pant
check
ARE YOU OKAY?

ARE YOU..
SAMURAI IP
EH?
A KATANA IP
JANGLE
THOSE ARE BORROWED...
YOU'RE SKILLED ENOUGH TO DO THIS, RIGHT?
THEN PLEASE...
ACCEPT THIS AND GET MY KATANA BACK FROM THOSE GUYS!
IF YOU DON'T...

I'LL NEVER BECOME A SAMURAIII!
WAAH
OH!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
AAAAAAAA
WELL, ACTUALLY WE ARE BUSY RIGHT NOW!
FATHER, MOTHER ...
PLEASE FORGIVE YOUR UNGRATEFUL SON...
ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT! WHO STOLE WHAT?!
EH?

AKEHIKO...
WELL...
NICE TO MEET YOU!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I'M NATSU-MESHIN TAROU.
WE TALKED ALL THE NIGHT THROUGH AT THIS DRINKING PARLOR...
AND THEN, WHEN I WOKE UP, MY KATANA WAS GONE...
THE LANDLORD SAID THE RONIN THAT WAS SITTING AT THE TABLE WITH ME TOOK IT AWAY.
DID YOU REPORT IT TO THE AUTHORITIES?
OF COURSE!
BUT SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS WITH RONIN LATELY, THEY IGNORED ME.
EH?

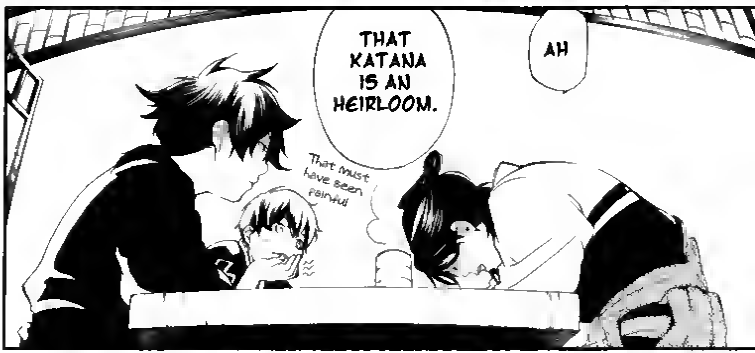
I GUESS BEING A SAMURAI ISN'T THE SAME AS BEING RICH.
BUT I'M NOT LIKE THAT!
YOU KNOW KATSURA KOGORO, RIGHT?
WHO?
HE'S AN IMPERIAL LOYALIST! A LEADER OF THE CHOUSHUU DOMAIN.
I'M SORRY, BUT WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THESE THINGS.
THANKS TO MY FATHER'S REFERRAL, I CAME TO THE CAPITAL TO MEET HIM AND BECOME INVOLVED IN THE POLITICS OF THE COUNTRY.
DON'T YOU THINK THE SHOGUN ARE CORRUPT?
IF WE KEEP BEING INFLUENCED BY FOREIGNERS, THEY WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY!
THAT'S WHY...
WE HAVE TO OVER-THROW THE SHOGU-NATE
WE IMPERIAL LOYALISTS HAVE TO ESTABLISH A NEW ERA AROUND THE EMPEROR!!

THAT IS ONE MORE REASON WHY
I CAN'T DO WITHOUT MY KATANA!
DEPRESSED
AH
WE'RE ENTHUSIASTIC, AREN'T WE, MAN? KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
AHHH
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!
Oh my...
IF WE GET BACK WHAT YOU NEED, EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.
SO, CHEER UP, AND FOCUS ON FINDING YOUR KATANA!
twist
YOU'RE RIGHT...
I HAVE TO KEEP FAITH IN MY OATH.
sniffle
I CAN'T QUIT NOW!!
THAT'S RIGHT!

AH!
WHAT'S UP?
YOU CAN'T GO TO WAR WITH AN EMPTY STOMACH
LET'S GO AND EAT SOMETHING OVER THERE.
DON'T WORRY! I'M BUYING!
WAIT!
WHAT A TREAT!
ISN'T IT GREAT, ICHI-KUN?
BRRR
IT'S COLD
LET'S WARM UP A BIT HERE
CLO
MP
THERE'S NO NEED TO EXERT YOURSELVES TOO MUCH
THREE EELS.
FRESH ONES, PLEASE

WELCOME TO OUR STORE! ♡
EXCUSE ME?
THOSE DUMPLINGS ARE SUPERB
IS THAT ...?
AH!
DON'T BE RUDE! OF COURSE I'M IN TROUBLE!
ARE YOU REALLY IN TROUBLE?
ONE MORE PORTION OF DUMP-LINGS, PLEASE!
UGH
I'M DOING MY BEST TO FIND IT, AREN'T I?

THAT'S OUT OF QUESTION !!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST BUY ANOTHER KATANA?
SINCE YOU'RE THE SON OF A WEALTHY FAMILY,
Money is not a problem!
rattle
rattle
I SAID I'M BUYING, SO EAT A LITTLE BIT MORE


THAT KATANA IS AN HEIRLOOM.
That must have been painful
AH

MY MOTHER ALLOWED ME TO TAKE IT ALONG WHEN I SET OFF ON THIS TRAVEL.
THAT KATANA WAS BESTOWED UPON MY ANCESTORS BY A FEUDAL LORD
I BELONG TO A LINEAGE OF FAMILIES CLOSE TO THE SHOGUN

WAAA!
AND I LET IT BE TAKEN FROM ME! I'M A FULL FLEDGED IDIOT!
OH, COME ON! DON'T START CRYING AGAIN!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BE A SAMURAI IF YOU BEHAVE LIKE THAT?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD UNDERSTAND THE WAY I FEEL..
SOB
THE THIRD SON IN LINE COULD NEVER SUCCEED HIS FATHER
HE'S BUT A BURDEN, WHOSE ONLY OPTION IS TO FIND AN ADOPTIVE FAMILY
AND CONTINUE LIVING AN ORDINARY LIFE...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S POINTLESS?

I WANT TO LEAVE A MARK.
PROVE THE FACT THAT I LIVED IN THIS WORLD.
WHY AM I EVEN ALIVE?

Bam
I'VE HAD ENOUGH
ME, TOO
WHAT?!
SUSPICIOUS
THAT'S TALKING, DEAR! ARE YOU AN IMPERIALIST?
YOU BET! ARE YOU AN IMPERIALIST, TOO?
How about a drink?
SIGH

COME ON!!
YOU CAN HAVE THESE BACK
BUT THE SUN'S ALREADY SET
FIND SOMEONE ELSE.
HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO ME!?
IF I DON'T GET MY KATANA BACK SOON, THEY MIGHT SELL IT!
I DON'T CARE
GRAB GRAB
DO YOU WANT ME TO MENTION YOU IN MY SUICIDE NOTE?!
AND STAIN OUR PURE INNO-CENCE!?
YOU'RE THE WORST!
AAAAH
SLAM

THOSE RONIN OF MIBU* ARE REALLY GETTING ON MY NERVES!
THEY SAID THEY DON'T NEED ROGUES LUSTING AFTER MONEY
WHEN THEY ARE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF THUGS THEMSELVES!

*T/N the Shinsengumi members were also known as the "Miburo", meaning "ronin of Mibu," Mibu being the suburb of central Kyoto where they were stationed

HEY, YOU TWO!
EHP!
STEP
YEAH, SIX OF ONE AND HALF A DOZEN OF THE OTHER...
AH!
LET'S GO...
YOU! YOU'RE THE ONES WHO TOOK MY KATANA!

HEY!
IT'S THEM!! THEY'RE THE ONES THAT STOLE MY KATANA!!
STE
R
UM
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?
WHAT? YOU MEAN THIS KATANA?
CLANG
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!!
YOU DID THIS ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU?!

E-EXACTLY! GIVE BACK THAT KATANA!
OR ELSE YOU WILL EXPERIENCE A LOT OF PAIN!
SHOVE
WE DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED!
WHAT ?!
DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN HAVE THIS PIECE OF JUNK BACK
IT'S SHOWY, BUT USELESS!
I WAS PUT TO SHAME BECAUSE OF THIS THING!
IT WAS CUT RIGHT IN TWO IN A FIGHT AGAINST THE RONIN OF MIBU.

CAN'T YOU EVEN HOLD IT IN YOUR HANDS, IDIOT?
I WAS LAUGHED AT AND CHASED AWAY IT WAS TERRIBLE, I TELL YOU.
CLANG
HOW- CAN THIS
AH!
AHHH ALRIGHT! VIEWS ABOUT THIS COUNTRY
EH!? WE'RE GOOD DRINKING BUDDIES
HEY BRO, LET'S EXCHANGE VIEWS ABOUT THIS COUNTRY AGAIN SOON, OKAY?

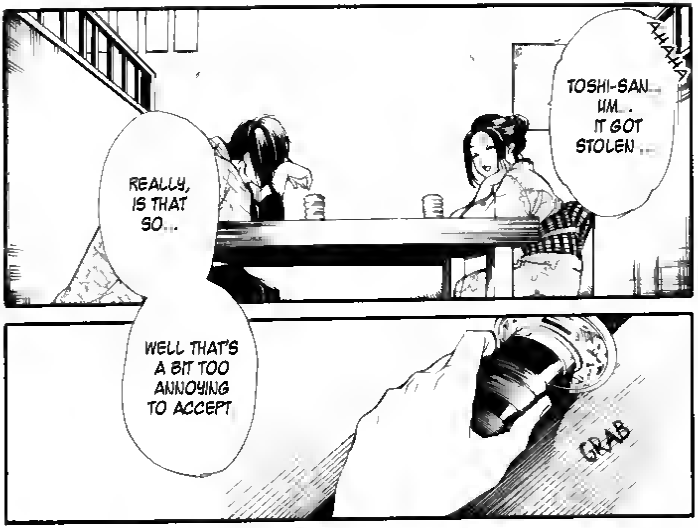
BUT, UNFORTU-NATELY, I RAN OUT OF MONEY
I HAVE MONEY!
WE ARE FELLOW PATRIOTS AFTER ALL, RIGHT?
HEY!
HM?
YOU'RE FORGETTING THIS.

...AH!
Y-YOU-
THAT WAS DANGER-OUS!!
ZIIING
YOU REALLY TRIED TO HIT ME! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! AND TO THINK THAT I THOUGHT YOU WOULD HELP ME!
PUCK
SHUT UP AL-READY!
YOU'RE ONLY GOOD AT TALKING.
I WON'T BE IMPRESSED BY THE SHALLOW WORDS OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

SINCE YOU DID FIND YOUR KATANA IN THE END,
WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK.
BY THE WAY
EP
HEY
AFTER ALL I DID FOR YOU! AND IT ALL CAME TO NOTHING!!
Y-YOU CAN'T REALLY SAY I GOT IT BACK!
OUT OF THE WAY.
WAA
HEY!
YOU WERE THE ONE DRAGGING US IN HERE AND OFFERING US FOOD!

GET THE HELL OUTTA MY WAY!
TAP
WANNA FIGHT?!
.....!
LET'S DO IT!

SIRS, DON'T!
SIRS!!


AHAHA
TOSHI-SAN... UM... IT GOT STOLEN...
REALLY, IS THAT SO...
WELL THAT'S A BIT TOO ANNOYING TO ACCEPT
GRAB

BY THE WAY, YOU GUYS WERE GREAT
WHATEVER YOU SAY GETS ON MY NERVES

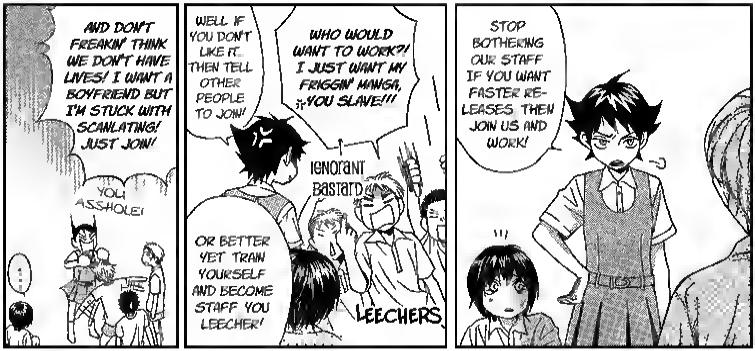
I CAN'T GO BACK HOME WITH THIS

AAAH, I'M BEAT!
WHAT A MESS...
SAME HERE

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
I'M GOING TO NAGASAKI TO STUDY WESTERN KNOWLEDGE!
WHAT?
DON'T YOU KNOW? NAGASAKI IS PRETTY POPULAR NOWADAYS.
IF WE DON'T ACTIVELY INCORPORATE WESTERN CULTURE, DAWN WILL NEVER COME TO JAPAN!
SWORD FIGHTING JUST ISN'T FOR ME!
BUT YOU TWO WOULD MAKE GREAT SAMURAI.
THEN YOU, TOO, COULD WORK HARD FOR THE SAKE OF JAPAN.

WELL THEN...
IT PROBABLY WON'T AMOUNT TO ANYTHING.
LET'S MAKE A WAGER
...WHAT WAS THAT?
gon
I BET WE WON'T REACH OUR DESTINATION BEFORE SUNSET. THE LOSER WILL HAVE TO CARRY THE LUGGAGE.
YEAH...

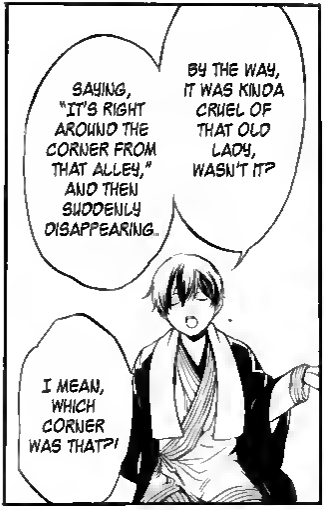
SHORT STORY


AND DON'T FREAKIN' THINK WE DON'T HAVE LIVES! I WANT A BOYFRIEND BUT I'M STUCK WITH SCANLATING! JUST JOIN!
YOU ASSHOLE!
WELL IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN TELL OTHER PEOPLE TO JOIN!
WHO WOULD WANT TO WORK?! I JUST WANT MY FRIGGIN' MANGA, YOU SLAVE!!!
Ignorant Bastard
OR BETTER YET TRAIN YOURSELF AND BECOME STAFF YOU LEECHER!
LEECHERS
STOP BOTHERING OUR STAFF IF YOU WANT FASTER RELEASES THEN JOIN US AND WORK!

PANT
PANT
DIE
EE!

PANT
PANT
zzz
chirp
chirp
.....

DAMN— IT'S A DOWN-POUR!!
HURRY UP, ICHI!!
SPLASH
SPLASH
SHHHHH
IT'S FALLING PRETTY STEADILY
THE SUN WAS SHINING JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, TOO
WEIRD, ISN'T IT?


BY THE WAY, IT WAS KINDA CRUEL OF THAT OLD LADY, WASN'T IT?
SAYING, "IT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER FROM THAT ALLEY," AND THEN SUDDENLY DISAPPEARING.
I MEAN, WHICH CORNER WAS THAT?!

.....

WEL-COME
AH TWO PORTIONS OF DUMP-LINGS, RIGHT?

WHY ARE YOU SO RECKLESS?!

FORTUNATELY, WE ENDED UP IN A VACANT LOT. THEN, WE HAD TO GO THROUGH THAT REALLY NARROW PASSAGEWAY.
WHEN WE STARTED GOING UP THE STAIRS, I KEPT WONDERING WHERE WE WOULD END UP.

JUST WHEN WE'D FINALLY RECOGNIZED WHERE WE WERE!
AND NOW HERE WE ARE, JUST BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO SEE WHERE THE PATH LED!
AND NOW, IT'S EVEN STARTED TO RAIN AGAIN!!
RECKLESS? BUT SHE SAID IT WAS RIGHT THERE...
THEN YOU KNOW WHERE YOU GOT LOST!!
THEN WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT WERE YOU DOING TO HELP?
huh
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THEN YOU LEAD THE WAY!
I'M ALWAYS THE ONE ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS
YOU JUST FOLLOWED ME WITHOUT SAYING A WORD

WE'LL FIND IT SOONER.
GRAB
LET'S SEARCH SEPARATELY.
WHY?
WE WOULD ONLY LOSE EACH OTHER!
CUT IT OUT! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE ARE!
WHACK
WHY ARE YOU SO UN-AFFECTED? JUST LIKE THAT GUY!!

AAAAH!
UM
AAAAH... THAT TEA WAS SCALDING HOT!
I'M SORRY, WE REALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO
NG

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WAIT!
GLARE
YOU BASTARD ...!
I- I SAID WE WERE SORRY..
WAIT —!!
AH
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE?!
PHEW, WHAT AN AGGRESSIVE PAIR.

EH?
PLEASE, WAKE UP!
THEY'RE OUT COLD.
THE BOSS IS GONNA KILL ME IF WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH BODYGUARDS!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW? JUST WHEN WE WERE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE!
BODY-GUARDS?
EXACTLY.
RIGHT!!
PAT.
YOU CAN TAKE THEIR PLACE, RIGHT?

WHAAT ?!
I'LL DO IT
WHAT ?!
YOU'RE WELCOME.

WHAT A HUGE HOUSE...
HEY! PAY ATTEN-TION!
OH, RIGHT!
IS THAT CLEAR? THIS IS THE SHORTEST WAY TO GET FROM HERE TO KASHIWAYA.
BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF JUNCTIONS, SO DON'T GET LOST.
BUT, IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, GATHER AROUND THE PALANQUIN AND GUARD YOUR BACK TO IT
PROCEED SCATTERED OUT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
THE PALANQUIN HAS JUST ARRIVED

I'M GOING
SO, EVERY-ONE...
PAT
WAIT
OOOH
WHO'S THAT WOMAN? SO BEAU-TIFUL AND STRONG-WILLED... SHE WOULD MAKE AN EXTREMELY OVER-BEARING WIFE...
looks away
THE WOMEN OF THE CAPITAL ARE MUCH BETTER, DON'T YOU THINK?
OSONO
I KNOW THAT TODAY'S BUSINESS IS VERY IMPOR-TANT, BUT, IF BY ANY CHANCE HE WERE TO DIE, IT WOULD BE THE END OF OUR HOUSEHOLD...
PLEASE, LET ME GO INSTEAD! IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

BUT...
EITHER OF THEM IS FINE, SO LET'S HURRY UP AND LEAVE
HE'S SULKING AGAIN...
THEY'RE THE BEST!
EXACTLY THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE IT, BUT IN A DOJO IN EDO, THEY MASTERED THE ART OF THE SWORD IN NO TIME
ARE THOSE TWO BOYS BODY-GUARDS, TOO?
ARE THEY...
YOU REALLY CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER
ARE YOU FEELING MORE RELIEVED NOW?
WELL THEN... PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF OSONO
HAHAH AHAH

HEAVE—
HO—
HEAVE—
HO—
HEAVE—
HO—
HEAVE—
HO—
Shhh
HEAVE
HO—
HEAVE
HO—
HEAVE
HO—
.....

SPLASH

TADOKORO KANZABURO FROM AKIMARUYA, RIGHT?

THOSE AIDING THE TRAITORS OF THIS COUNTRY WILL BE TREATED AS TRAITORS THEMSELVES.
SHING

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO KNOW.

WHO SENT YOU?
YOU FINALLY SHOWED UP.

CLANG
THEY'RE COMING!
THERE'S SIX OF THEM. PROTECT THE PALANQUIN!
WA
THIS IS HEAVEN'S PUNISHMENT!
AH
SPLASH

ICHI-
YOU
?!
IDIOT
!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STAY HERE!
AAAAH
HE GOT ME.

I HAVE TO STOP HIM...
THEY REACHED THEIR TARGET FROM BEHIND.
THE MEN ATTACKING FROM THE FRONT WERE JUST A DECOYS.
AAAH!
THEY'RE ATTACKING FROM BOTH SIDES!

CLING
CLING
CLING
ARE THEY ALL DOWN?
THUMP
SPLASH

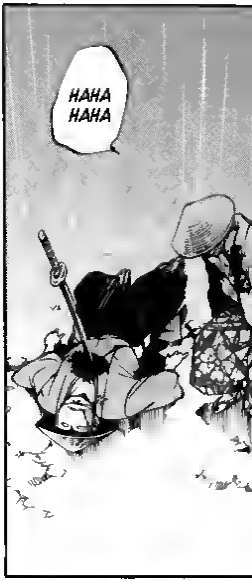
I CAN MAKE IT.
CLANG
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
AAAH
W-WH...

YAAA!!
HOW CUN-NING!
!!
URK
FWUMP
WAH ...!
TRIP

SLIP...
PERY
TUMBLE TUMBLE TUMBLE
SSH
WAH

BWAHAHAH
MUAHAHAHA
SKIP
MUDDY
NG
Y-YOU... UNBELIEV-ABLE !!
MY SIDES HURT...
GWAHA HAHA
UH
HEHE
HEHE HEHE HE
HEY!
THE ENEMY'S STILL...

ZA
OK
AH, THAT WAS FUN


HAHA HAHA

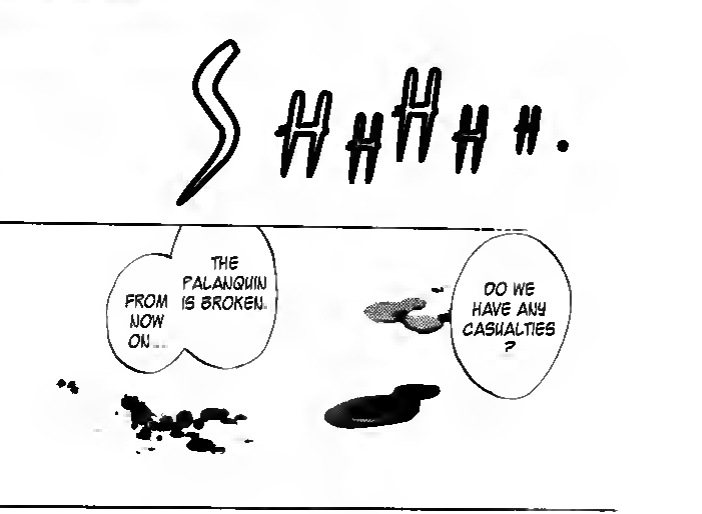
WAS THIS THE LAST ONE?
YES...

YOU KNOW...

HERE

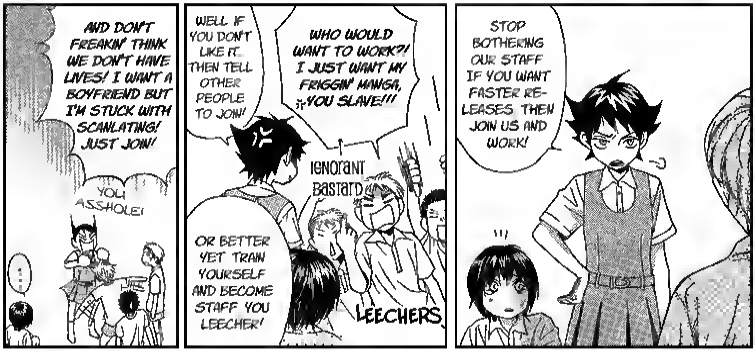
CAN YOU STAND?
YES...

YOU SHOULDN'T CARRY A SWORD IF YOU'RE NOT READY TO KILL.
THIS IS NOT A GAME.


SHHHH.
THE PALANQUIN IS BROKEN.
FROM NOW ON...
DO WE HAVE ANY CASUALTIES?

HOLD ON!
COME HERE! QUICK !!

SHORT STORY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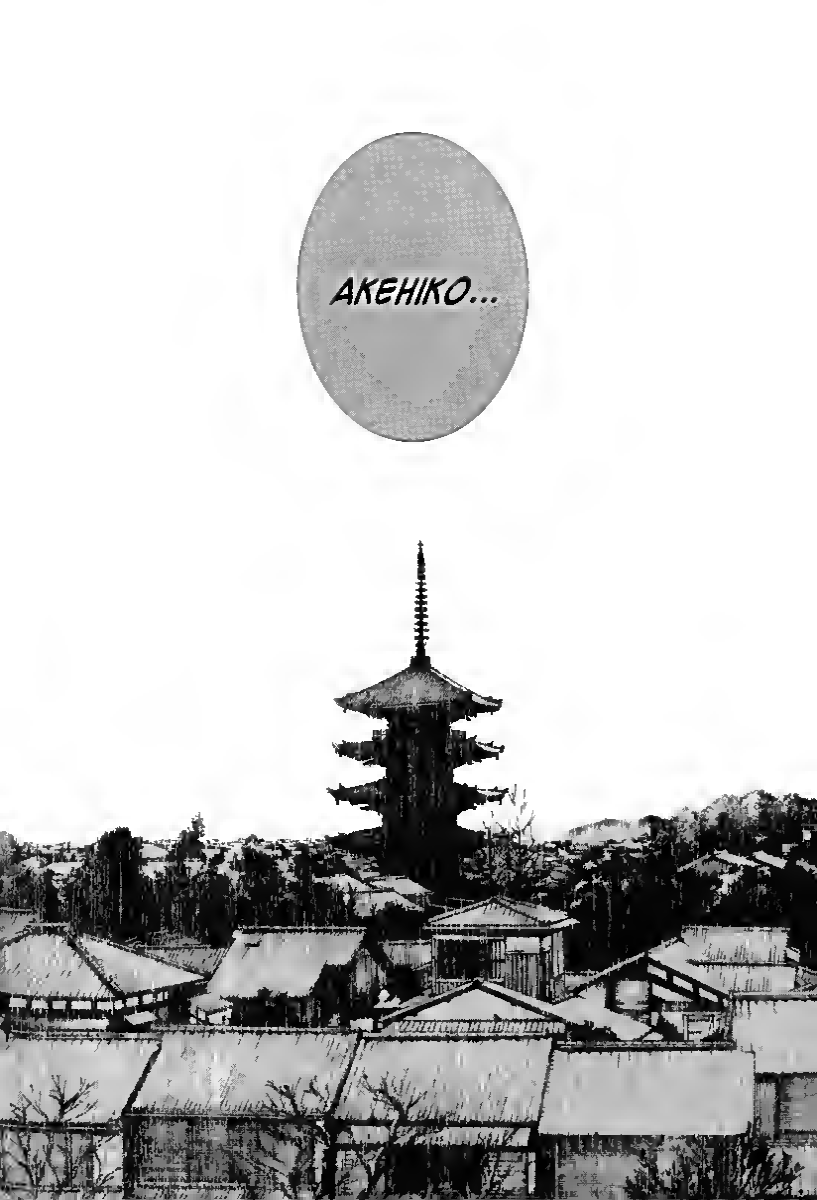
YOU ASSHOLE!
WELL IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN TELL OTHER PEOPLE TO JOIN!
WHO WOULD WANT TO WORK?! I JUST WANT MY FRIGGIN' MANGA, YOU SLAVE!!!
Ignorant Bastard
OR BETTER YET TRAIN YOURSELF AND BECOME STAFF YOU LEECHER!
LEECHERS
STOP BOTHERING OUR STAFF IF YOU WANT FASTER RELEASES THEN JOIN US AND WORK!

HOLD ON!
OVER HERE! COME QUICK!


AKEHIKO...

I'M COMING IN!
DOC-TOR,
YES, HE'S INSIDE
AH!
AND THE BOY THAT WAS BROUGHT HERE A SHORT WHILE AGO...?
Hey, wait!
I HAVE TO GO.

WE CAN'T BE SURE THEY WON'T ATTACK AGAIN.
I'M NOT BEING SELFISH...
WE SHOULD TRY AGAIN ANOTHER TIME
URGH
ALL RIGHT, THEN...
I CAN MAKE IT BY MYSELF FROM HERE
YOU SHOULD HURRY UP, AND TAKE THAT BOY TO A DOCTOR
WAIT A SEC!
FORGET YOUR DETERMINATION FOR A MOMENT!
IF YOU DIED, WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO?
LET GO!

IF I DON'T GO NOW,
IT WOULD BE JUST AS POINT-LESS!
ENOUGH AL-
I'LL GO WITH HER.
HUH?
LET'S GO.
EH?
AHH!

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO GO WITH YOUR FRIEND?
PULL
AH--- THOSE IDIOTS!
MIMATA! TAKE HIM TO THE DOCTOR!
OKAY
wipe
I'M SURE.
THUMP THUMP THUMP

SLAM
DOCTOR!
AH
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT
IT LOOKS WORSE THAN IT ACTUALLY IS
HE WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GET UP TOMORROW
SIGH
shuffle
AKE

* T/N The entrance where shoes are taken off

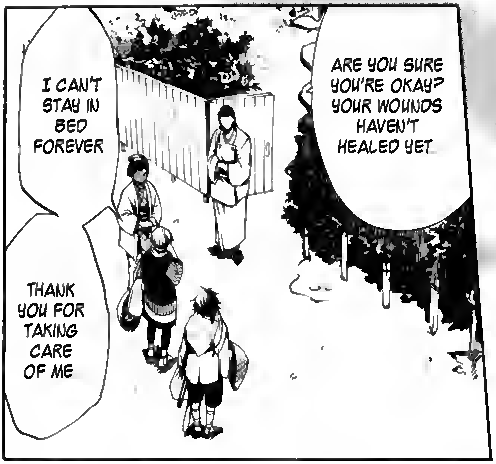
HEY, YOU!
ICHI?
HUH?
WHERE AM...

UGH
YOU CAN'T MOVE YET!
YOU'RE WOUNDS HAVE JUST BEEN STITCHED!
STING
STING
STING
YOU NEED TO TAKE IT EASY!
ouch
YOU'RE NOT SWORD MASTERS, ARE YOU?
AND YET YOU WERE STUPID ENOUGH TO FIGHT TWO MEN BY YOURSELF!
BUT ARE YOU OKAY?
THANKS TO YOU
THEN... I'M GLAD

ICHI
WHERE'S MY FRIEND...?
AAH
HE'S WAITING OUT-SIDE
AH.
IT WAS MY DUTY
SSHHHH
PlipPlip
Plip
HAAAA!!

YOU KNOW...
YOU SHOULDN'T CARRY A SWORD IF YOU'RE NOT READY TO KILL
HOW CUNNING...
THIS ISN'T A GAME!
BAM

BAM
BAM


ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY? YOUR WOUNDS HAVEN'T HEALED YET
I CAN'T STAY IN BED FOREVER
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME
CHIRP CHIRP

POP
SECRET TECH-MIQUE!
HOPK
I SEE, NO WONDER IT'S SO TIGHT .
WELL, HE WAS WOUNDED BECAUSE OF ME..
AND SHE ALSO HELPED ME BANDAGE YOU
IF YOU WANT TO THANK SOMEONE, YOU SHOULD THANK OSONO-SAN SHE PAID MY FEE,

AND THANK YOU FOR THE KIMONO!
WELL, THEN TAKE CARE!
IF YOU GO ON LIKE THAT, YOU'RE GOING TO DIE YOUNG!
Uhh

I MADE A MISTAKE.
WE SHOULD HAVE ASKED WHERE WE WERE!
LOST AGAIN.
ALL RIGHT.
OH?
YOU WAIT HERE.
AH! LET'S TRY ASKING THAT OLD LADY.
EXCUSE ME~!
IS HE... WORRIED ABOUT ME?

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, ICHI.
OW
HUH?
YONE WILL GET MAD BECAUSE OF THIS...
STING
STING
THAT SHOP...
AKE-HIKO
AH!
THAT PERSON IS...
EH?

HERE WE ARE!
DIDN'T WE PASS BY SOMEWHERE CLOSE TO HERE AT THE BEGINNING?
SO IT SEEMS... WE MUST HAVE GRADUALLY WALKED AWAY FROM IT.
FI-NAL-LY...
WE'LL FINALLY GET TO GO HOME!

BACK HOME
...
AT THIS RATE
...
UNCLE ~?
RUSTLE

SHAKE SHAKE
WHICH OF THEM IS OUR UNCLE?
AKEHIKO
STEP BACK, AKEHIKO
GRAB
WA-
WE'RE NOT THIEVES...
WAIT, IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!!
THAT'S EXAC-TLY...

HEY, WE'RE SERI-OUS!
SHH IS!
WHAT THIEVES SAY ALL THE TIME!!
CRACK!
SLAM
GRAB
SHUT UP, THIEF!
UNCLE~!
UNCLE ...

A RELATIVE OF SANBA TATSUHIKO?
OR MAYBE...
SMIRK
COME ON, IT WON'T TAKE LONG.
WELL, THAT'S ENOUGH.
PLEASE, COME WITH ME, BOTH OF YOU
SE-SENSEI!

THE SHINSENGUMI STATION IS CLOSE BY.

BADUMP
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A COUPLE QUESTIONS ABOUT SANBA TATSUHIKO...
SHINSENGUMI, YOU SAID? THEN OKITA-SAN MUST BE THERE, TOO!
OKI-TA ?!
WHAT A GREAT COINCI-DENCE!
YOU KNOW, OKITA-SAN HELPED US OUT OF TROUBLE ONCE.
twitch
twitch
TANI-SENSEI !!
WHAT NOW ?!

* T/N: literally: inhabitants of the Chōshū region which rebelled against the Shogun See note on page 29
I HEARD THAT A FEW DAYS AGO, SANBA WAS TAKEN AWAY BY A COUPLE OF MEN, AND HE HASN'T COME BACK SINCE!
SOME PEOPLE SAW THEM GOING TOWARDS THE KŌFUKU TEMPLE.
HMPH
THEY'VE FINALLY GIVEN THEMSELVES AWAY, DAMN IMPERIALISTS*.
WAIT, YAMANO!
I'LL REPORT TO THE VICE-COMMANDER!
WE HAVE NO REAL EVIDENCE YET.
AND I DON'T THINK IT'D BE A PROBLEM IF WE INFORMED HIM AFTER SETTLING THE MATTER.
BUT, IF BY SOME CHANCE
VICE-COMMANDER, VICE-COMMANDER

YOU WILL STAY HERE, AND QUES-TION THOSE TWO!
THAT'S WHY YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A LOWLY SOLDIER!
YES, SIR!
WE WILL SURROUND KŌFUKU TEMPLE.
ASSEMBLE ALL THE MEN THAT ARE OUT PATROLLING.
TANI-SENSEI!!

abandoned
WHAT THE...
YOU'RE A LOWLY SOLDIER, TOO! DON'T ACT SO HIGH AND MIGHTY!
WHERE'S OUR STUFF?
THEY WENT THAT WAY.
YOU CAN LEAVE IT HERE, NO ONE WILL TOUCH IT.
GRAB
OW
HOLD ON A SECOND !!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

WHERE'S KŌFUKU TEMPLE?
ENOUGH ALREADY !!
HUH? OKAY...
STEP
YOU HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR QUESTION-ING!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
sigh
...

BY THE WAY...
WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING FOR INSIDE OUR UNCLE'S HOUSE?
SAME HERE
OF COURSE!
HANG ON YASOHACHI.. THIS IS ALL PART OF YOUR MILITARY DUTIES...
AH, EXCUSE ME, COULD YOU BRING ME ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE?
OH, AND THAT GUY'S BUYING FOR THE THREE OF US
WE WERE LOOKING FOR SOME PROOF OF HIS CONNECTION TO THE IMPERIALISTS
That's enough, I'm eating too
AT NIGHT, KŌFUKU TEMPLE TURNS INTO A GAMBLING DEN...
EXCLUSIONISTS* FROM CHŌSHŪ MINGLE WITH GAMBLERS AND GATHER SECRETLY TO PLOT A CONSPIRACY.
AS A FORMER BROKER, SANBA MAY BE SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO THE IMPERIALISTS
BUT THEN WHY WAS HE TAKEN AWAY?
YOU THINK HE'S ON THEIR SIDE?

* T/N Imperialists - supporters of the sonnō-jōi movement - who wanted the expulsion of the foreigners from Japan. Chōshū was one of the regions that embraced the sonnō-jōi movement and rebelled against the Shogun

IT IS THE DUTY OF THE SHINSENGUMI TO LOOK INTO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THOSE PLOTS AND DISCERN WHETHER THERE IS ANY TRUTH BEHIND THEM,
EVEN IF THEY ARE COMPLETELY OFF THE MARK.
HMPH
WELL...
HE MIGHT HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.
THAT'S PRETTY LAME...
SO YOU JUST BARGE IN WITH NO PROOF?
THE SHINSENGUMI IS PRETTY BIG, ISN'T IT?
YOU TWO ARE COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS, AREN'T YOU?
ALRIGHT THEN...
THE SHINSENGUMI IS MADE UP OF THE STRONGEST WARRIORS, HEADED BY TEN ASSISTANT VICE COMMANDERS.
ABOVE THEM, THERE ARE TWO VICE COMMANDERS,
WHILE, AT THE HIGHEST RANK, SITS THE COMMANDER

slurp
IN A WAY...
AND THE HIGHER THE RANK, THE STRONGER THE GUY?
HE'S FIVE YEARS OLDER?!
BUT I'M TWENTY YEARS OLD
I MIGHT BE SHORT
A MIDGET LIKE YOU IS PART OF THE CORP...
IT'S KIND OF SURPRISING THAT
...EH?
THEY'LL NEVER LET US ENTER THE GAMBLING DEN
NOM NOM
I HAVE TO MEET TANI-SENSEI.
HURRY UP YOU TWO!
WE'D BETTER USE THIS GUY

* TN: Red bean soup, traditional Japanese dessert made of red beans and mochi (rice cake)

<TO BE CONTINUED>

PLEASE COME AGAIN—
Kakioroshi
HUP...
...NG
UGH
SPLASH
IT'S BEEN EIGHT DAYS SINCE AKEHIKO AND ICHIYO LEFT FOR THE CAPITAL
hmm
UFF...

..THOUGH, LATELY THE STREETS HAVE BECOME DANGEROUS
WHAT IF..
SOME-THING HAPPEN-ED...
YES, I'M ABSOLUTE-LY SURE THEY ARE...
HONESTLY, THOSE TWO MORONS ARE PROBABLY JUST PLAYING AROUND!
I WILL BUY YOU AN ORNATE HAIRPIN

SWOOSH
HE REMEMBERED...
HOP
HOP
YOU'RE REALLY CUTE, KAYO.
.....
HOP!
BOUNCE.

YOU'RE FOUR YEARS OLD ALREADY, KAYO.
YOU SHOULD START TO DRESS LIKE A GIRL
AKE-NII. LOOK! A HAIRPIN!
IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU!
DOESN'T IT, ICHI?
SURE
I HATE HIM.
Take that!
MHM?
AH. TAMI-CHAN. THIS IS...
KAYO-CHAN?

AH, KAYO-CHAN, YOU'RE WEARING AN ORNATE PIN!
REAL-LY?
MY MOTHER GAVE IT TO ME.
HOW DO I LOOK?
MY MOTHER DID MY HAIR UP FOR ME!
BUT, IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD WITH THAT HAIRDO
CLENCH

CRA
SH
AAH!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
BAM
OW
I-
I'M SORRY
AH!?

—u
UUHHI
WAAAHH

AAAAAAAH!
AH
SIGH
TENSE TENSE
TENSE
TENSE
RATTLE
THAT'S ENOUGH!
I'M NOT GOING TO WEAR IT LIKE THAT!
ONCE THE RICE DRIES, THEY WILL STICK TOGETHER
YOU DIDN'T THINK IT LOOKED GOOD ON ME, EITHER...
...IT'S FINE.

.....
COME
HUH?
GRIP
HOW COULD THOSE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS EVER...
WH-WHAT IS IT?
A PUDDLE? ?

I THINK FLOWERS
I LOOK GOOD ON YOU
WOO

BLUSH
...DO THEY REALLY?
THEY DO.
UM
WELL..
THEN...
IF I WERE TO PUT MY HAIR UP... ICHIYO... WELL ..
BUY ME A NEW ONE!

I WONDER...
WHY I DIDN'T ASK GENTLY... ♡
That was really mean of me
Shift
BRING ME A BEAUTIFUL ONE.
ICHIYO!
KAYO? ARE YOU STILL THERE?
COMING~!
IN THE MEAN-TIME...
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE? Does it look good on me?
STOP PLAY-ING A-ROUND !!

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-much love from Loyal Kiss and The Black Abyss

TEN-SUN COMICS

卓アンリ

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